

VZCZCXYZ0000
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHKT #1022 1111516
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 211516Z APR 06
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1190
INFO RUEHB/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 4254
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 4516
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 9612
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 2508
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 3905
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 9620
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 0791
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 001022

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR SCA/INS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/21/2016

TAGS: PGOV NP

SUBJECT: DID THE KING WAIT TOO LONG?

REF: KATHMANDU 1021

Classified By: Ambassador James F. Moriarty. Reasons 1.4 (b/d).

Former PM Deuba Calls Speech an "Opening"

¶1. (C) Following the King's message turning power over to the seven-party alliance (reftel), Sher Bahadur Deuba, NC(D) President and former Prime Minister, told the Ambassador that he thought the speech was an "opening." However, he lamented that he had to "follow the consensus" of the seven-party alliance. The Ambassador urged him not to reject the King's offer, but to push the alliance in the right direction.

But Mid-level Party Cadre Negative ...

¶2. (C) K.P. Oli, CPN-UML Central Committee member, complained the King had not gone far enough as he had offered to give executive power, but not "state power," to the people. He cautioned Emboff that it was only his personal reaction, and the seven-party alliance would meet and discuss their reaction on April 22. Arjun Narsingh K.C., NC Central Committee member, agreed that the King's proclamation was not sufficient, and told Emboff that, in his personal view, the King should have reinstated Parliament. Anil Jha, Nepal Sadbhawana Party Central Committee member, also stated the King also should have reinstated Parliament. "We have not been on the streets fighting for a prime minister," he explained. The people on the street will not see this as sufficient, he opined. Minendra Rijal, NC(D) Spokesman, concurred, rhetorically asking Emboff "even if the alliance chooses a prime minister, then what? He should have reinstated Parliament."

... As Are Common People

¶3. (C) Emboffs called people throughout Kathmandu and all reported crowds shouting "not enough." The crowds were also urging the parties not to accept the offer. In at least one area inside the Ring Road, people were tearing down government signs. In Kirtipur, the crowd was yelling, "if

parties accept, we will abandon the parties." The people were insisting they would come to the streets on April 22.

Comment

¶4. (C) The next few days will show whether the King acted soon enough to defuse the pro-democracy movement's cry for a republic. We will be pushing the Parties to treat the King's proclamation as a clear and unambiguous offer to transfer power. The Indian Ambassador has assured us that he too will be doing everything possible to push the Parties in this direction.

MORIARTY